

Title: 2004 AMA - Critical Area Plantings

Purpose: To provide financial and technical assistance to reduce erosion and improve water quality by stabilizing critically eroding areas such as existing or abandoned farm roads, or other eroding agricultural areas. Woodland roads will be addressed under the AMA practice for “Existing Woodland Harvest Road, Trail and Landing Reclamation”. Surface water control needed for a critical area seeding will be addressed by the NRCS practice code 587 “Structure for Water Control”. Gravel is not to be used as mulch. This practice does not apply to roads used for utility maintenance or right of ways, oil and gas well roads which are active or still under the responsibility of the oil or gas producer, or public road right of ways. The landowner must have control of access to the area, and be willing to limit access to ensure establishment maintenance of vegetative cover. Livestock will be excluded from the seeding area (if applicable) to protect the seeding. This practice is not to be used on land slips or land slides. If the eroding area is already included in another USDA cost sharing contract, the area is not eligible for AMA.

Background: Erosion from roads has been identified by Local Working Groups (LWG's) as a significant source of sediment in West Virginia. Much of this road erosion is related to public road right of ways, and is not eligible for USDA cost sharing. However, some of this sediment originates on existing or abandoned farm access roads, and may be addressed by USDA programs. In addition, there are also other critically eroding areas that could be addressed with a Critical Area Planting.

Practice List: Critical Area Planting, Code 342
Structure for Water Control, Code 587
Use Exclusion, Code 472

Technical Contact: NRCS